

The Mother's Gift.

preference in his favour. A little boy, whose name was Charles Nichols, came up to master Smith, and told him, he remembered he had once the honour of playing with him at Mr. Jones's, and therefore he took the liberty of asking him how he did. The child was perfectly neat and clean: he was not handsome, but there was so much sweetness and good-nature expressed in his countenance, and so much politeness and complaisance in his behaviour, that he gained the love and esteem of every good person. Master Smith thought himself so much superior to this little boy, who happened to be poor, that he scarcely answered him, which Mr. Allworthy observing, said to Charles, I think my dear I heard you mention your having had the *honour* of playing with master Smith; remember, my love,

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it can confer no honour on a to play with a naughty boy, poorest child, if he be good and able, is far superior to the rich is naughty. He who thinks very of himself, will certainly be to shame. Master Smith colour felt ashamed.

Mr. Allworthy then began inquiry. Several of the children different characters, but some tolerable good. Master Thomas acknowledged to be the best had been yet examined; and servant, who had been his nurse, said Mr. Allworthy, that in his mother's absence, when she had told him, she never desired him to do any thing. It was now master's turn: Mr. Allworthy asked if he was dutiful to his parent. Mr. Thomas only answered with a sigh